

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01167 100731Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2054

S E C R E T SEOUL 1167

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KS US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT PAK COMMENT ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'
STATEMENT IN JAPAN

REF:SEOUL 942

1. IN COURSE FEBRUARY 9 CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER PAK SAID THAT PRESIDENT PAK HAD EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAD DISCUSSED WITH GOJ AND HAD PUBLICALLY DESCRIBED THE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING U.S. TROOP PRESENCE IN KOREA WHILE IN TOKYO WITHOUT INFORMING ROKG OF CONTENT BEFOREHAND. ACCORDING FORMIN, AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON SUBSTANCE OF MONDALE/FUKUDA TAOXS, PAK HAD COMMENTED THAT SINCE QUESTION OF TROOPS WAS BASICALLY A KOREAN/AMERICAN QUESTION RELATING TO ROK/U.S. MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE HAD THE ROKS BEEN INFORMED OF MONDALE'S REMARKS FIRTHAND BEFORE THEY WERE GIVEN TO FUKDA AND PRESS. FORNMIN SAID PRESIDENT HAD "GOTTEN MAD" AT HIM BECAUSE OF THIS, THEN NOTED WRYLY THAT IT WOULD MAKE LIFE EASIER IF THE U.S. WOULD BEAR THIS POINT IN MIND IN FUTURE.

2. I POINTED OUT TO FORNMIN THAT I THOUGHT CIRCUMSTANCES PERFECTLY EXPLAINABLE. VICE PRESIDENT HAD IN FACT REITERATED
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WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BEFORE AND HAD DONE SO IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS. JAPAN MOREOVER DID HAVE A LOGICAL STRATEGIC AND MILITARY INTEREST N THE QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED AND IT WAS APPROPRIATE IN THAT CONTEXT FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK TO THIS QUESTION IN TOKYO. I ASSURED FORNMIN THAT WE FULLY AWARE ROK DESIRES TO BE CONSULTED FIRTHAND REGARDING ROOP ISSUE AND THAT WE WOULD DO SO AT APPROPRIATE

TIME.

3. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PRIVATE OFFICIAL COMMENT AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MONDALE'S STATEMENT INDICATES ROKS DID IN FACT RECEIVE SUBSTANCE OF VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS VERY WELL. FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPORT ON PAK REACTION SHOULD BE READ IN THAT CONTEXT, SIMPLY AS SIGNAL OF ROK SENSITIVITY ON CONSULTATION QUESTION.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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